

# NYS DMV CDL Test Site Requirements

## Summary

Changes to part 383 of Title 49 of the United States Code of Federal Regulations, implemented on July 8, 2015, require that all state motor vehicle agencies standardize the way they conduct commercial driver's license (CDL) road tests. To comply with these requirements, the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles must administer skills tests that are consistent with the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators' (AAMVA's) "2005 CDL Test System (July 2010 Version) Model Commercial Driver Manual".

The AAMVA test model requires that DMV find a dedicated, off-road location, such as a parking lot, to conduct the Vehicle Inspection and Basic Control Skills segments of the test. Additionally, the site needs be located close enough to highways and urban centers to ensure the proper on-road skills can be tested, in the time allotted.

In order to accommodate the demand for tests, DMV is seeking locations that will be accessible Monday through Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm, with occasional Saturdays in some locations.

## Test Components

There are three sections of the CDL test:

1. Vehicle Inspection
  - a. Applicant walks around the vehicle identifying different parts of the vehicle
2. Basic Control Skills
  - a. Maneuvers are performed within a prescribed course laid out with cones
  - b. There are three maneuvers included:
    - i. Straight line backing – backing up through one lane of cones
    - ii. Offset backing – start in one lane, switch lanes while backing up, and end up in the coned area in the other lane
    - iii. Parallel park – start in one lane and parallel park into a "box" of cones
3. On-Road
  - a. Applicant leaves the lot and drives on-road to display their skills

## Dimensions and Course Layout

Below is a diagram showing the dimensions needed for the test site, which is 240' long by 66' wide, with additional space for commercial vehicles to enter and leave the course. An additional 75' or so is needed at the end of the coned area for the truck to go through the cones to complete one of the maneuvers.

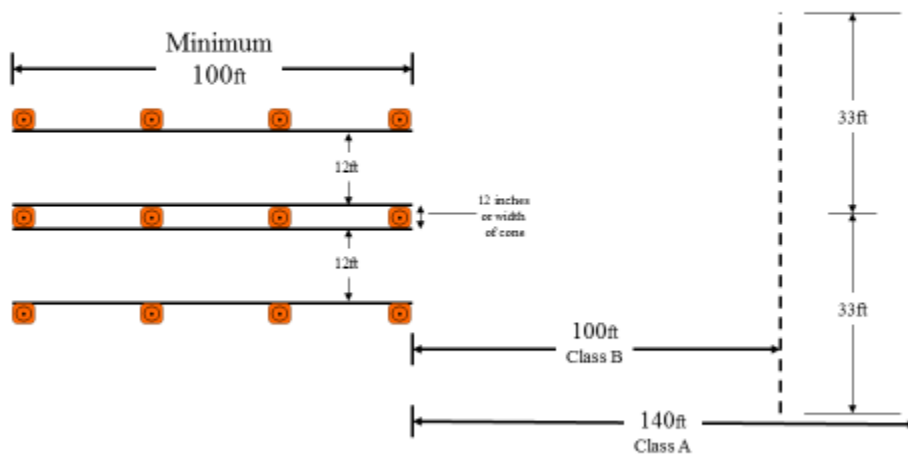
- Coned area:
  - 2 lanes, 12 ft. each in width
  - 100 ft. long
- Starting points for the offset maneuver:
  - Up to 140 ft. long on one side of the cones

- Width of 33 ft. on each side from the middle of the coned area

In addition, an area is needed where trucks can be staged to do the vehicle inspection section of the test. Preferably the area would be before where the cones begin, so it's easier to enter the course. However, we can be flexible with where the staging area is, including having it within the coned area.

Also, consideration is needed for how the trucks will enter and exit the skills test site. Ideally, trucks would enter from one direction and exit from another direction. However, if there are constraints due to the size or layout of the site, exceptions can be made.

## Course Layout



## On-road Skills Test

For the road test, the driver will use a pre-determined route, which must incorporate all of the necessary on-road maneuvers. There is no minimum or maximum length for a route, and there is no minimum amount of time that a route has to take. It's preferable to create two routes, in case construction or traffic prevents the use of the primary route.

All of the following maneuvers should be included on the full test route:

- Four left turns
- Four right turns
- Two lane change maneuvers (each maneuver should include a lane change to the left and to the right)
- Straight section of urban business street, at least 2 miles long
- Intersections – two through intersections, and two intersections where a stop has to be made

- Railroad crossing – if there isn't a railroad crossing on the route, a simulated crossing can be used
- Curves – one curve to the left, and one curve to the right
- Section of expressway or highway, at least 2 miles long
- Roadside stop/start – area on the roadway where the driver can pull the vehicle over safely and stop out of the normal flow of traffic, and then safely re-enter the roadway
- Low clearance, weight restriction, or traffic signs – a variety of situations could be used.
- Student discharge (school buses only) – use a lightly traveled street for this maneuver

## Other Considerations

- Overall Space
  - The dimensions above outline the minimum space required for one course setup. A strong preference is to have enough room to multiple coned areas with multiple examiners working at the site.
- Surface
  - The site needs a level space suitable for heavy vehicles (parking lot or section of unused or lightly traveled road)
- Clearance
  - Ensure there is enough overhead clearance at the site (for example, no obstructions from tree branches)
- Pavement Markings
  - It's preferable that paint markings be allowed on the pavement showing where to set up cones. This will assist with setup each testing day, so that the examiner doesn't need to re-measure the course according to the required measurements.
- Snow Removal
  - The desired area must be cleared of snow.
- Cone Storage
  - A storage area is needed for cones when testing is not in progress. It is preferable to use storage that is already at the location, but DMV can also provide storage containers to be located at the test site.
- Site Modifications
  - Determine modifications needed to make the site usable (for example, barriers and/or fencing added, curbs removed, signs added, etc.)